

MICHIGAN ASSOCIATION OF COUNTY CLERKS (MACC)

HEARING ON S.B. 667

FEBRUARY 20, 2008 – 9:00 A.M.

P.A. 419 of 2006 allowed County Clerk's to perform marriages in the County in which they are Clerk. This was effective November 29, 2006. Also, included in this bill, at the suggestion of MACC, was the ability of the following to perform marriages: "cleric or religious practitioner" meaning "priest, minister, rabbi, Christian Science practitioner, or other religious practitioner or similar functionary of a church, temple, religious body, denomination, or similar organization..." Previous to the enactment of P.A. 419 the foregoing was limited to "ministers of the gospel." Others allowed to perform marriages are: judge of the district court; district court magistrate; municipal judge; judge of probate, judge of a federal court; employees of a County Clerk's office in a County over 2,000,000 inhabitants as designated by the County Clerk; mayor in the city in which the mayor serves.

Subsequent to P.A. 419, P.A. 613 of 2006 effective January 3, 2007 allowed mayors to perform marriages anywhere in the County.

S.B. 667 would allow County Clerk's to perform marriages anywhere in the State with the written permission of the County Clerk in the County where the marriage would be performed. The Clerk that performs the marriage would deposit the County Commissioners' set fee into the Treasury of the County. This bill is supported by MACC.

There would be no fiscal impact on any County or the State.

Statement submitted by: Pattie S. Bender, St. Joseph County Clerk